

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated October 12, 2006. Claims 1-7, 16, 17, 19-25 and 59 have been cancelled. Claim 18 has been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendment to the claim.

Claims 1-6, 16-17, 19-24 and 59 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,596 ("Wiser") in view of PCT Publication No. WO 00/29928 ("Kupka"). Claims 1 and 25 were rejected as being unpatentable over Wiser and Kupka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,954 ("Searle") These claims have been cancelled, thereby mooting the rejections.

The Office Action indicated that claims 8-15, 26-33 and 36-58 were allowed, and that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 18 has been written as an independent claim and incorporates all of the limitations of cancelled claim 16. Thus, applicants submit that claims 8-15, 18, 26-33 and 36-58 are in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have. If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

Andrew T. Zidel

Registration No.: 45,256

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant